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economic system while the fundamental cause of the poverty of the unskilled, namely, the excessive number of them, is ignored? Looked at in this way the question of immigration involves a probing of the very foundations of economic science, an analysis, on the one hand, of the relationship between population and natural resources and, on the other hand, of the whole problem of distribution. Such an analysis Dr. Hourwich did not attempt. If he had, he must have been more circumspect in the drawing of conclusions from the statistics which he gathered.

WILLIAM O. WEYFORTH

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The Census and Some of Its Uses: Outlining a Plain Philosophy of Population,
by George T. Bisset-Smith. Edinburgh: W. Green & Son, Ltd. 1921.
228 pp.

The title of this book seems to promise three things: some account of the census, mention of some of its uses, and an outline of a plain philosophy of population. One may logically, therefore, consider the content of the book with reference to these three subjects, although the arrangement of the material is such that it would be difficult to segregate and bring together those portions which relate to any one topic. To be sure, the book is divided into three parts, but in subject matter the parts do not apparently differ from one another; and as for the chapters, it would seem as if almost any accidental order would be just as logical as that in which they appear. One reason for this formal defect may be found in the fact that the book is in part a reproduction of articles upon various aspects of the census which the author "had contributed to the press from time to time in his limited leisure." It seems fairly evident that many such articles have been reproduced as chapters without any alterations.

On the subject of the English census the book contains considerable information. Having been for many years connected with the Department of the Registrar General for Scotland the author is familiar with census taking in Great Britain. There are only casual references to the census in other countries. The British Census Act of 1920 is given in an appendix, the census questions are discussed in different connections, and some of the difficulties of census taking are dwelt upon. But there is no connected or complete account of the organization and machinery of census taking, and hardly any reference to the tabulation and presentation of the census data.

As a census man I have frequently thought that the uses of the census presented an important and timely subject which has not received adequate treatment. The public, I am afraid, is inclined to be sceptical. So when I received this book I took it up eagerly, believing that here the uses of the census, or at least some of them, would be convincingly set forth; but the author has hardly more than touched upon that subject. Yet the uses of the census are neither few nor unimportant.

The "plain philosophy of population" is equally hard to find and formulate. Under such titles as "industry and socialism," "unemployment," "fertility of

marriage," "Bolshevism," and "German militarism," the author expresses his views regarding many social and economic questions. He dissents emphatically from the doctrine that population increases faster than subsistence. Having faith in the "illimitable power of human invention and resource," he denounces the doctrine of over population as a bogey raised by Malthus, and repeatedly declares that "no country can continue powerful without a progressive population." This would seem to be the fundamental tenet in his philosophy of population.

The most valuable and interesting portions of this book, as already intimated, are those which relate to the English census; and the author might have forestalled criticism to some extent if he had adopted some title less pretentious and more appropriate, such as "Informal Talks on the Census and Other Subjects."

J. A. HILL

The Economics of Petroleum, by Joseph E. Pogue. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1921. 375 pp.

Mr. Joseph E. Pogue's latest book, "The Economics of Petroleum," deserves appraisal from three points of view.

It merits a place as a source book in the neglected field of the economics of production and marketing. The author does not deal with labor problems; his only reference to labor is labor cost. He has little or nothing to say of monopoly, combination, regulation, or the Sherman and Clayton acts, and he makes only incidental reference to finance, investment and profits. He places emphasis rather on the supply and demand for petroleum and its multiple products; on the commercial interaction of oil and the other fuels; and on the machinery of production, transportation, and marketing. His analysis of these subjects is able and comprehensive. It is a study of the kind that we need to develop a theory of production.

To the executives of the petroleum business the book should have an even stronger appeal. It is the first comprehensive picture of the industry that combines a consideration of engineering and economics. The analysis is dynamic rather than static. It searches for trends and finds many of them—trends of markets, of prices, of reserves and demand. American petroleum is considered in its relation to the world supply, and oil is viewed as in competition with coal, oil shale, gas, and water power. The market for by-products and the competitive pressure of substitutes are examined. Changes in the future supply of motor fuel are correlated with necessary changes in the engines that use it. The basic material on these varied topics the author has selected from many sources and has examined critically in the light of his own experience as geologist and consulting engineer. To cover so wide a field requires boldness in interpreting and in projecting trends, and the technicians will doubtless take exception to some of Mr. Pogue's conclusions; but it is just this courageous projecting of tendencies that business needs in a troubled time like the present, and the fuel industry owes Mr. Pogue a debt of thanks for undertaking it. Probably no other man in the country could do the job so well.

The book is also interesting because of its statistical technique. Text, tabular